

# Reske fights back against gas price gouging



Representative  
Reske

Fuel retailers who take advantage of public fears after emergencies to artificially inflate gas prices will be penalized through a new law passed by the Indiana General Assembly this year.

House Bill 1015 permits the Indiana attorney general to investigate and take action against retailers who engage in fuel price gouging. The bill was signed into law by Governor Frank O'Bannon.

House Bill 1015 came into being as a result of public concerns expressed in the wake of the tragedies that took place on September 11, 2001. At a time when most Americans were coming together as a country to face down the threat of terrorism, a few greedy people decided to use the emergency as a chance to make extra profits.

In the days after the attacks, many state officials like myself heard numerous complaints from citizens upset that some dealers were charging exorbitant prices for gasoline. Reports indicated that customers were being asked to pay

as much as \$5 per gallon.

Through this law, the attorney general will have the ability to investigate complaints of price



gouging and seek relief against those parties found guilty. Penalties could include fines of up to

\$1,000 per transaction and restitution for victims of price gouging.

The attorney general also will make information about complaints of price gouging available to the general public, although the data will not identify particular people or locations.

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There is nothing more reprehensible than the actions of those who consider emergencies a prime opportunity to

line their own pockets. After September 11th, we were able to send many positive messages to our young people about standing up against evil in this world. Through the passage of House Bill 1015, we provide a warning that we will not tolerate attempts to prey on the fears of others.

# Free publications available from Representative Scott E. Reske

The following publications are available free-of-charge by calling my Statehouse office at 1-800-382-9842.

**Hoosier Fun and Facts** — This information and activity book teaches elementary students about their state through text, puzzles and other activities.

**Relax...** — This booklet for senior citizens discusses issues from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

**Higher Education** — A publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

**Guide to State Agencies** — This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each.

**Discount Drug Cards** — This information sheet details several discount cards available to seniors for their prescription medications.

## Also Available:

- The Festival Guide
- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Get Out and Go Map
- Road Map
- Golf & Travel Guide
- The Indiana Travel Guide

	<p><b>CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE RESKE</b></p> <p>House of Representatives 200 W. Washington Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786 1-800-382-9842</p> <p><b>RESIDENCE</b> P.O. Box 513 Pendleton, IN 46064 E-mail: <a href="mailto:H37@in.gov">H37@in.gov</a> Online: <a href="http://www.in.gov/H37">www.in.gov/H37</a></p>
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